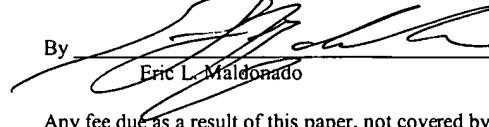




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By 
Eric L. Maldonado

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Attorney Docket No. 100809-00103 (SCEY 19.261)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Hiroshi OHTSU, et al.

Serial No.: 10/025,589 ✓

Filed: December 17, 2001

Title: **OPTICAL DISK APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR...**

Examiner: 

Art Unit: 

May 23, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SIR:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the documents listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

As this statement is being filed within three months of a search report, no fee is due.

Also attached is a copy of a International Search Report dated April 3, 2002 from the corresponding International Patent Application. All of the documents listed in Form PTO- 1449 appear in the International Search Report.

#8

As some of these documents are written in a language other than English, English Language abstracts and translations are annexed thereto explaining their relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3).

Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a) and 1.106 (b), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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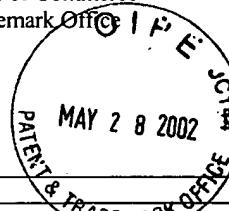
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Sheet 1 of 1



Application No. : 10/026,589

Filing Date : DECEMBER 14, 2001

First Named Inventor: H. OHTSU

Group Art Unit :

Examiner Name :

Attorney Docket No. : SCEY 19.261

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		6,115,334		TSUTSUI, et al.	09/05/2000	

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Office ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		0 609 882	EP	SONY CORPORATION	08/10/1994	
		0 840 295	EP	SONY CORPORATION	05/06/1998	
		1 043 717	EP	SONY CORPORATION	10/11/2000	
		2000-149282	JP	CLARION CO LTD	05/30/2000	
		10-83543	JP	CLARION CO LTD	03/31/1998	

Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check here if English language translation attached
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¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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